sanitation and up-bringing of children. Poor children were bathed and fed with cow's milk. It was three months since the scheme was started, and it was estimated to cost about Rs. 2,000 a year. But this was not enough. A maternity home was very necessary. The acquisition of the necessary sites and the putting up of buildings for the purpose would cost several thousands of rupees. But the municipality was not able to bear such a heavy expenditure. Government should therefore provide the accommodation for the maternity home by granting the council the Excise office building to the west of the municipal office and they should also give them a yearly grant of Rs. 2,000 for meeting the recurring expenditure on account of the maintenance of the institution.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Nayanar, the whole of your representation reveals to this Assembly the profound concern you have in the well-being of Nagercoil. This is not flattery of Nagercoil for me to say that it is far and away the best conducted municipality in the whole of Travancore. And for the good work that has been done the people of Nagercoil owe a deep obligation to your earnestness and selflessness, and it gives me great pleasure to bear testimony to your devotion to Nagercoil.

You dwell upon the question of water supply to Nagercoil. I know it is a very serious matter in Nagercoil and equally I realise with you that it will be some years before a comprehensive scheme of pure water supply to the town can be given effect to. But you very wisely advocate temporary measures to provide better water and I too have been spoken to by the Engineers who say it is possible, at comparatively a small cost, to provide pure water at least for the eastern part of the town where it is most needed. On the question of financial assistance by Government in the matter, I think instead of asking for specific sums in this Assembly it will be much more businesslike and proper if you come officially to the Government with the request.

You refer to the question of making over the present Excise Office buildings for the purpose of maternity and child welfare. We all know that Nagercoil is doing good work in that direction. But I am afraid I cannot in a word dispose of the buildings of the Excise Department without consulting the Excise Commissioner. I shall ascertain his views on the subject at the earliest date. In the matter of maternity and child welfare also, I think you can come up with your definite proposals officially before the Government.

62. Extension and widening of the Thirunakara market.

MR. MALIYAKAL MANI ABRAHAM (*Member, Mercantile and Trading Classes, Kottayam*) said that the Kottayam market was first opened in 1052. After the lapse of 52 years the market still retained its old area. There was absolutely no extension made in the area in spite of the fact that the subject was several times moved before Government both in the Assembly and outside. The late Dewan, Mr. T. Raghaviah, once inspected the market and promised to arrange for the acquisition of the necessary sites at once. But the matter had

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not progressed any further. The Executive Engineer, Kottayam, should be specially asked to prepare a scheme for the extension of the market.

It was difficult to understand why the plague observation stations at Arukutti and Veluthulli were retained by the Government of Travancore even after the Cochin Government had declared that there was no case of plague in that State. The detention and examination of articles at these places was causing great loss to the merchants of Travancore. One could not but regret that the matter had not come to the notice either of the Administrative Board, Medical Services or of Government. The observation stations mentioned should be abolished at once and merchants and passengers saved the great trouble and loss they were suffering.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Maliyakal Mani Abraham, in regard to the market you have mentioned, Government have made reference to the President of the municipality on the subject. But the President is apparently still considering the matter for, in spite of the long time that has elapsed, no reply has been received from him. I therefore suggest that you would move the municipality on the subject.

You also referred to the question of plague preventive arrangements at Arukutty. It does not matter the slightest to the Government what inconvenience individual merchants suffer as a result of the arrangements made to keep disease and pestilences out of the country. The interests of the country are far more important than the convenience of individuals. In regard to the withdrawal of the arrangements made, I would suggest that before you comment upon the matter here, you should ascertain what is actually taking place on the spot.

63. Necessity of giving grants to the Kottayam Municipality for opening new roads and making other improvements in the town.

MR. T. C. CHACKO (*Member, Municipal Council, Kottayam*) said that for a long time past Government were not paying any attention to the development of the Kottayam town. The old roads opened at a time when the vehicular traffic in the town was confined to a few country carts still remained in their original condition even though the town had of late witnessed a remarkable rise in motor traffic. Not only that the old roads were not widened, no new roads were being opened at all. The municipal council was not rich enough to meet the enormous cost of opening new roads. Government should open new roads in the town, and their maintenance alone should be left to the municipality. Government should at least acquire the lands necessary for opening the roads and hand them over to the municipality.

In order to construct a building for the municipal office, Government should transfer to the municipality the necessary lands from the south eastern portion of the hospital compound.

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